

WEARDALE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1970

"Springfield",
WILLINGTON,
Crook,
Co. Durham.

Tel:- Willington 375

G. A. MACGREGOR, M.D.,
D.P.H., M.R.S.H., F.R.S.H.H.

Medical Officer of Health

J. R. MASTERTON, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector

WEARDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1970

To the Chairman and Members of the Weardale Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the public health of your area for the year 1970.

Since 1962 the death rate per 1,000 population in your area has exceeded the birth rate and this year the pattern is the same, the death rate being 17.2 and the birth rate 11.8, the corresponding figures for England and Wales being 11.7 and 16.0. The principle causes of death in age groups show that diseases of the heart and circulatory system accounted for 72% of the total deaths.

Measles was the most prominent of the infectious diseases, and there were 4 new cases of tuberculosis and 2 of infective jaundice. No cases of poliomyelitis, diphtheria or enteric fever were reported.

Throughout the year immunisations against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus were continued at clinics, surgeries and in schools, with a satisfactory response. Also tuberculin testing was carried out among children on entering school and all positive reactors were followed up and examined by a Chest Specialist. Among the 11 year to 18 year old school children tuberculin testing was followed by B.C.G. immunisation among negative reactors, while among positive reactors complete "follow ups" were conducted. Immunisation against measles was commenced in 1968 in addition to the above immunisations.

Undulant fever or brucellosis was recorded on one occasion in cattle in your area during the year and active measures were taken to prevent any spread to human beings.

Attendances at St. John's Chapel, Stanhope and Wolsingham Child Welfare Clinics have been steady, averaging between 20-25 a session at Stanhope and 15-17 at Wolsingham.

The chiropody clinic operating at Wolsingham and Stanhope has been in great demand and there is a waiting list at both places.

In conclusion, the general state of public health is being maintained at a good level so far as your area is concerned, and I would like to thank members and the Council staff for their cordial help and assistance during the year.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

G. A. MACGREGOR.

CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Population (Registrar General's Estimate - Mid 1970)	..	..	7,890
Area (In Acres)	..	..	99,652
Number of Inhabited Houses	..	..	3,269
Rateable Value	..	..	£401,880
Product of Penny Rate (1d)	..	..	£1,616

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	88	42	46
Illegitimate	5	3	2
	<u>93</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>48</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude rate)	11.8
General Birth Rate (England and Wales)	.. .. 16.0

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	1	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) 11
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<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	136	65	71

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude rate)	17.2
Death Rate (England and Wales)	.. .. 11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis	.. .. Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	.. Nil

Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age

					<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
Illegitimate		..	..	..	-	-	-
					<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

Deaths of Infants Under 4 Weeks of Age

					<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate		-	-	-

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births	11
Infant Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	.. .. .. 18
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - Legitimate	.. 11
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - Illegitimate	.. -
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) -
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) -
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births)	.. .. .. 11
Deaths from Cancer	.. .. .. 24
Deaths from Measles -
Deaths from Diarrhoea -
Deaths from Whooping Cough -

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS

Year	Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate Under 1 year	Birth Rate
1965	13.52	12.82	9.50
1966	17.87	8.77	13.95
1967	16.24	-	13.06
1968	16.42	10.10	12.22
1969	18.90	25.00	15.30
1970	17.20	11.00	11.80

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1970

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 Weeks & Under 1 year	Age in Years										75 & over																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
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B19 (3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1970 (Continued)

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 Weeks & Under 1 year	Age in Years										75 & over
					1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74			
Brought forward		100	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	5	17	29	44		
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3		
B31 Influenza	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3		
B32 Pneumonia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		
B46(7) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
B34 Peptic Ulcer	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2		
B35 Appendicitis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
B46(8) Other Diseases of Digestive System	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
B46(10) Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		
B46(11) Diseases of Musculo- Skeletal System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
B42 Congenital Anomalies	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
B45 Symptoms and Ill Def- ined Conditions	M	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	F	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
BE48 All Other Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
BE49 Suicide and Self- Inflicted Injuries	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Total All Causes	M	65	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	13	24	23		
	F	71	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	5	6	13	42		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted To Hospital	Total Deaths
Dysentery	-	-	-
Measles	26	-	-
Whooping Cough	4	-	-
Infective Jaundice	2	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	4	3	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-

The following table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever during the past six years:-

Year	DIPHTHERIA		SCARLET FEVER	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1965	-	-	-	-
1966	-	-	1	-
1967	-	-	-	-
1968	-	-	1	-
1969	-	-	-	-
1970	-	-	1	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1970

The following table gives the incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year:-

[illegible]

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

[illegible]

R E P O R T O F T H E
P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1970

To the Chairman and Members of the Weardale Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my report on the aspects of Public Health in which my Department is directly involved. Having commenced duties in November 1969 this Annual Report covers my first year in office with the Council.

Considerable progress has been made in raising Public Health standards in many fields, particularly in respect of caravan sites, food hygiene, sewage disposal, public conveniences and refuse disposal, but there remains a considerable volume of work to be carried out as well as maintaining recent improvements.

Housing standards have been improved by the completion of many individual grant schemes but the problem of individual unfit dwellings which are only occupied as holiday and week-end accommodation still remains. The conversion of the remaining earth closets is a further problem which will require early attention.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obediently,

J. R. MASTERTON

Public Health Inspector

WATER SUPPLIES

The whole of the Weardale Rural District is within the area of supply of the Durham County Water Board.

During the year supplies were satisfactorily maintained and no complaints of shortage arose.

The results of the bacteriological examination of samples taken from village supplies proved satisfactory. Informal samples were also taken from private supplies for examination.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Ministry approvals to the sewerage schemes to serve the Western Area (£74,892) and the Wolsingham District (£61,153) were received in 1966. An approval was received in March 1970 for the Thornley section of the joint Wolsingham/Thornley scheme (£28,354).

1. Western Area Scheme:- Schemes for minor extensions to serve small groups of dwellings in hamlets in the western part of the district were in the course of preparation at the year end.
2. Wolsingham and Thornley Joint Sewerage Scheme:- The construction of the new disposal works at Bradley Bridge was almost completed by the year end, and the new sewer line from Wolsingham to Bradley Bridge has been laid.

A commencement has been made in the laying of the branch sewer towards Thornley Village and Helme Park. This section of work envisages the connection of Thornley village and groups of properties at Helme Park to the disposal works at Bradley Bridge. One group of twenty-two dwellings being within the Tow Law Urban District Council area, and an agreement has been made between the two Councils for these properties to be served by this new sewer.

3. Hunstanworth Scheme:- At the year end work had commenced on the design for a disposal scheme for Hunstanworth village.

This scheme for Hunstanworth, when completed, will mean that each village within the Rural District Council area enjoys the benefits of main drainage, and will complete the Council's sewerage programme.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The position regarding the installation of water closets continues to improve rather slowly, although the new sewerage schemes should allow increased numbers of conversions. It is planned during the next two years to have a concerted drive to remove the remaining earth closets. Three property owners took advantage of the scheme under the Public Health Acts allowing a grant for water closet conversion. Numerous other water closets were also installed as part of the housing improvement schemes. The estimated number of closets in the area at the end of the year were:-

Water Closets	-	3,152
Ash-closets, etc.	-	155
Ashpit-privies	-	6
		<hr/>
		3,273
		<hr/>

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

During the year new public conveniences were provided at St. John's Chapel and Stanhope Market Place. These buildings were replacements of sub-standard facilities. Major renovation work was carried out at the conveniences at the Stanhope Public Playing Field. The Council now have some twelve public conveniences throughout the district and schemes were being prepared at the year end for renovation of some six of these buildings.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection of household and trade refuse was carried out by two Shelvoke and Drewry (fore and aft tippers) and one Ford Thames Side-loader refuse collection vehicles.

The estimated weight of refuse removed was 5,676 tons, and the vehicles covered a total mileage of 20,895.

Refuse was disposed of at three tips at Lanehead Quarry, Stanhope; Browns Houses Quarry, Frosterley; and Harperley Bank Quarry, near Wolsingham. Lack of suitable covering material for these tips remains a problem, although local foundries have co-operated in this direction by providing quantities of foundry waste. An overall

improvement has been achieved in the management of the refuse tips by more frequent levelling and dressing off.

Further Council properties were provided with paper sack collection arrangements during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The Council's full-time rodent operator has been engaged upon the disinfection of dwellings, business premises, farms, refuse tips, sewers and sewage disposal works. Of the properties inspected treatment was carried out on 118 dwellings, 5 business premises, 7 farms, and 19 other properties (refuse tips, sewage works, etc.).

The cost of treatment on business premises and farms was recovered on the basis of actual costs plus establishment charges.

SHOPS AND FOOD PREMISES

Routine inspections of shops and food premises were carried out to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations and in connection with registrations for the sale of ice cream.

The list of food premises within the district is as follows:-

Butchers and Slaughterhouses	--	6
Cafes, Hotels and Licenced Premises	--	34
Provision Merchants	--	21
Fruiterers and General	--	40
Fishmongers and Fish Frying	--	5
Bakeries and Bakers Shops	--	3
Canteens and School Kitchens	--	9

Considerable improvements were obtained in many premises.

There are no poultry packing premises within the district.

MEAT INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Inspections of the two registered private slaughterhouses in the district were carried out and these were found to be satisfactory.

During the year the carcasses of 140 cattle, 715 sheep and 9 pigs were inspected. The quality of animals slaughtered was generally good and only small amounts of offal and other minor parts were condemned, totalling approximately 550 lbs.

Following requests by retailers, numerous tinned and frozen foods were condemned, in all instances the food was surrendered voluntarily.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was found necessary during the year regarding smoke abatement but considerable time was committed to seeking an improvement in conditions caused by dust emissions. Steps were taken in conjunction with the Alkali Inspector to ensure modifications to plant, and at the year end conditions were improving, and further steps were to be taken by the firms concerned.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses within the district.

FACTORIES ACTS

Inspections were carried out under the Factories Acts. Minor defects were remedied in two instances.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number On Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	2	2	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	30	11	Nil	Nil
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>TOTAL</u>	32	13	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more 'cases').

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Insp. By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness	2	2		Nil
Overcrowding				
Unreasonable temperature				
Inadequate ventilation				

There are now no registered outworkers in the district.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES

Further inspections were carried out on premises registered under this Act to ensure compliance with the various aspects of legislation. At the end of the year 11 offices, 17 retail shops, etc., employing 88 persons (34 males and 54 females) were registered.

CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

Inspections were carried out of all registered caravan and camping sites to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Caravans Act and Public Health Acts. There are now some 88 authorised sites within the district varying from sites with individual 'vans only to holiday sites with over

250 caravans. Considerable improvements have been achieved in the standard of facilities provided on many sites, although some of the longer established sites require very close supervision and owners of these particular sites have been approached with a view to obtaining an overall improvement in standards and facilities.

HOUSING

A) Local Authority:- No new Council houses were built by the authority during the year 1970.

The Council now own 659 houses. Schemes were being prepared at the end of the year for new Council houses and bungalows at Rookhope, St. John's Chapel, Stanhope, Frosterley and Wolsingham.

B) Private Dwellings:- Only one new private dwelling house was constructed and occupied during the year. Two new houses were provided by conversions at Lanehead and West Black Dene.

C) Improvement Grants:-

1. Discretionary Grants

Applications submitted and approved during the year	-	55
Applications rejected during the year	-	-
Completion grants paid during the year	-	51
Average grant per house during the year	-	£563.50
Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	-	752

2. Standard Grants

Applications submitted and approved during the year	-	14
Completion Grants paid during the year	-	14
Average grant per house during the year	-	£130.29
Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	-	163

